

## BVID HISTORY PROJECT

I have been researching news paper articles from 1870 to 1914 as part of the ongoing BVID history research project. The following pages include numerous news articles that will give You some insight into the hardships of the early days of BVID.

The first 14 pages in some way reference the early years of the BVID and the next 4 pages are articles of interest to the BV/LR area. Some reference things that had they happened could have drastically changed the NV/LR area as we know it today. Projects like turning the Oregon House valley into a lake to furnish water to SF or building a railroad from Marysville through BV to OH. The first article in the second group is about a fire. It appears, based on BVID minutes for that time period, the fire destroyed some of the newly constructed BVID flumes.

Some of the articles are of questionable accuracy and may only indicate that something along the reported lines happened. As an example of the questionable accuracy I have posted the following two articles describing a fight over Dry Creek water. As you can see they differ in that one reports the weapon as a shotgun and the other says a knife.

Enjoy, Bob Bordsen, Director Division 1

### **Sacramento Daily Union, 5 August 1870**

Homicide in Yuba County.— The Grass Valley Union of August 4th gives a more definite account of the late homicide in Frenchtown than we have yet seen : Yesterday two officers came over from Frenchtown, near the Oregon House, Yuba county, to look for a man who had killed another on Monday night. The name of the slaver, as given to us, is Franc Jose Espanola, and it is said that he once worked for Pettijean, near this place. The man killed was named Joe St. John. The men were partners, and fell out about a small stream of water which ran into a garden. The killing was done with a knife.

### **Daily Alta California, 4 August 1870**

August 3d.— On Sunday last, a fight occurred between two Portuguese, at Frenchtown, two and a half miles from the Oregon House, about water that they were using to irrigate their gardens; one of the men went to his house and returned with a shot-gun, which he held within two or three feet of his antagonist's side, and shot him, killing him almost instantly. The murderer escaped; both men had families. The murderer is described as five foot four inches high, complexion fair, snarly whiskers, blue eyes and is thirty-three years old;

## **Sacramento Daily Union, 18 October 1887**

Irrigation in Yuba County.

Marysville October 17th. — At a meeting last Saturday at the Stanfield House, in the foot-hills of Yuba, of land owners in the district on the north side of the Yuba, from the Oregon House down to the plains, it was decided to construct a canal to carry 10,000 inches of water from the North Yuba, near Goodyear Bar, at an estimated cost of \$150,000. The work will be done either under the Wright Irrigation Act or as a co-operative enterprise.

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## **Sacramento Daily Union, 14 November - 1888**

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED by the Board of rectors of the Brown's Valley Irrigation District for the purchase of the bonds of said district at any time after the date of this notice, and until the 14th day of December, 1888, at 1 o'clock P. M. of said day, at the office of said Board, at the town of Brown's Valley, county of Yuba, State of California.; aid bonds are issued under and in pursuance of an Act of the Legislature of the State of California, entitled " An Act to provide for the organization and government of Irrigation Districts, and to provide for the acquisition of water and other property, and for the distribution of water thereby for irrigation purposes," approved March 7, 1887. Three hundred of such bonds will be of the denomination of \$100 each; one hundred and sixty of such bonds will be of the denomination of \$500 each. Said bonds will be of the form prescribed in Section 15 of aid Act, and bear six per cent, interest, interest payable semi-annually. None of said bonds will be sold for less than ninety per cent, of the face value thereof. Said proposals will be opened at said time and place, and the purchase will be awarded to the highest responsible bidder. Said Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Any farther information respecting said bonds may be had on application to B. B. Gurney, Secretary of said Board, post office address. Brown's Valley, Yuba county, California, or T. J. Hibbert, President of said Board, Post Office address, Brown's Valley, • Yuba county,. California. Done by order of the Board of Directors of Browns Valley Irrigation District this 20th Day of October, 1888. T. J. Hibbert President, B. B. Gurney Secretary.

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## **Sacramento Daily Union, 8 July 1890**

### **IRRIGATION CONVENTION.**

An Important Meeting to Be Held in Tulare County. The following circular is being sent out by the Board of Directors of Tulare Irrigation District, to the Board of Directors in each irrigation district of the State : "It has been suggested that the officers of the various irrigation districts of California, formed under the Wright irrigation law, should meet in convention for the purpose of forming a State Association of district officers. "It is thought that such an Association would enable each district to benefit by the experience of all other districts, in the solution of problems of mutual interest, and that an arrangement might be made whereby all districts should contribute to the adjustment of such difficulties as beset the paths of all alike. "It is not unlikely (hat further legislation will be required from time to time, and that concerted action upon the part of districts would greatly facilitate the passage of such laws as are needed. "It is possible, also, that concerted action may be needed to prevent the enactment of legislation adverse to the district system. "Subjects important for associated consideration will doubtless subject themselves to the minds of Directors of all districts, the discussion of which would be productive of good. "In view of the foregoing and other considerations, the undersigned Directors of Tulare Irrigation District hereby extend their cordial and earnest invitation to the Directors and officers of your district, to meet delegates from the several irrigation districts of California, in convention at Tulare, Cal , September 12, 1890. "Delegates are requested to invite any friends of the district system to attend i and assist in the deliberations of the convention. "Arrangements have been made whereby persons paying one full fare to Tulare, will be given a return ticket for one-third fare, provided they bring with them a receipt from their agent showing purchase of a ticket to attend said convention."

## **San Francisco Call, 13 September 1890**

### **IRRIGATION.**

Bonds Aggregating Nearly Six Million Dollars Issued. Sept. 12.— The State Convention of the Irrigation districts of California met at Tulare at 10 o'clock this morning. Dele- Rates were present from fourteen districts, or about half the number in the State- Many prominent friends of the district system who were not district officers were present, and have -taken an active part in the proceedings. Among others, C. C- Wright, author of the present law; Will S. Green, the irrigation war-horse of Colusa, L. M. Holt of San Bernardino and I. R. Wilbur of San Francisco. The association was organized permanently by the election

of J. K. McDonald of West Side, San Joaquin, President, and J. E. Anderson .of Poso, Secretary, and K. Oakford of Tulare, Assistant Secretary. The afternoon was given up to proposals of amendment) of the existing law and to discussion thereon. It was considered a very profitable day's work. The sentiment prevails that while the law needs amendment in several particulars, its principles are right, and that it is along that line that the battle is to be fought out. A Legislative Committee of seven has been appointed to be aided by an Advisory Committee of one from each district in the State. " Steps have been taken to determine What is wanted, and to go after it. A talk upon the sale of bonds brought out the following facts: Of twelve districts which have voted bonds aggregating \$5,960,000 have been issued, of which \$1,672,000 have been sold. Of these \$560,000 were exchanged for i:rigation work and water rights at par and \$111,201 were sold at 90 to 93 cents on the dollar cash. All this has been done since the beginning of 1890. The total number of acres in these twelve districts is 1,659,244; average bended indebtedness per acre \$5.62; highest indebtedness is that of Escondido, \$35.12; smallest is Browns Valley, Yuba County, \$2.54. The convention will conclude us labors tomorrow anyway, and possibly to-night.

## **San Francisco Call, 2 June 1891.**

Browns Valley Irrigation District

Marysville, June 1.— Lively times are expected at the meeting of the Browns Valley Irrigation District Directors to-morrow, owing to the recent suspension of work by the contractor.

## **San Francisco Call, 17 March 1894**

APPREHENDED AT LAST.

Charged With the Murder of Charley Waller. Marysville, March 16.— Mandell Potts, a half-breed Indian aged '23 years, and Scarfield Dick, his uncle, were arrested yesterday in Nevada County by Sheriff Inlow of Yuba, and are now in jail here charged with the murder of old Charley Waiter last June. Waller, who was flumetender on the Browns Valley irrigation ditch, was killed for his money. Indications pointed io several squaw men at the time. The parties under arrest have allowed strong circumstantial evidence to accumulate against them and the prosecution feel satisfied that further evidence will be forthcoming.

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## **San Francisco Call, 7 Sept. 1897**

Power for Yuba County.

MARYSVILLE. Cal., Sept. John Martin of San Francisco was here to-day. Representing Eastern capitalists, he announces that work on an electric plant in the foothills twenty miles from Marysville, to supply light and power for Yuba and surrounding counties, would begin immediate. and that the plant would be in operation by April, 1893. The mines of the Browns Valley district, twelve miles from Marysville, will receive power service.

## **San Francisco Call, 21 Oct 1897**

ELECTRIC POWER FOR MARYSVILLE

Syndicate to Utilize the Headwaters of the Yuba. Eliminating Plant to Be in Operation Within Six Months. Full Equipment for the Enterprise Will Soon Be in Process of erection. Special Dispatch to The Call, MARYSVILLE, Oct. 20.— That Marysville is to enjoy all the benefits that can be derived from an electric light and power plant that will possess illuminating facilities modern In detail, efficient in operation and economical to a marked degree seems assured. There has been a movement in that direction for nearly a year past, and now the promoters of the scheme announce that within the next few months, or by April 1. 1898, at the latest, they will be prepared to give power to mill and factory and light to business houses, offices and residences.

A syndicate composed of R. R. Colgate, a New York capitalist; E J. de Sabla Jr., a gentleman who owns a controlling interest in the Nevada County Power Company, and John Martin, representing the Pacific Coast agency of an Eastern electric supply house, are the projectors. Their power will indirectly be derived from the headwaters of the Yuba River, the point at which the stream is tapped being possessed of a volume of water sufficient for a half dozen cities the size of San Francisco.

From the Browns Valley irrigation district the company has procured a lease of the water in its canal (in transit). The deeds from the owners of the site at which the power will be generated have been entered on the county records, and all that now remains to be done is to place the machinery and string poles

and wires from the mountain down into the valley. F. W. Page of the Donebrogue mine, Browns Valley, who several mouths ago procured from the Marysville City Council and the Yuba County Supervisors franchises to conduct electricity over the highways of the county and the streets of the city, has assigned" the r ght to Mr. Martin and his assigns. The Browns Valley mines, twelve miles distant from Marysville, have contracted with the new company for power at the rate of \$1500 a month for two years from April 1, 1896. To The Call correspondent this evening Mr. Martin of the new company said : "The details of our project are now complete. We shall proceed without further delay to establish a light and power plant that will call for an investment of \$200,000. Our contract for lights and power have reached a volume that guarantees us dividends upon this capitalization, and now all that remains for us to do is to install in\*, plant and get to work. Our contracts for power include the Sperry Flour Company, the Webb Mining Company at Browns Valley and several minor concerns. The Webb Company alone will take power to the value of \$1500 a month for the next two years, and thereafter at the rate of \$5 per horse-power a month for any amount need thereafter during the life of the Browns Valley mine.

"In Marysville our illuminating contracts embrace nearly the entire community. We have ordered our engineer to lay out and stake His pole line at once, and shall shortly advertise for bids for digging the holes for the poles in sections, thus giving residents along the line the opportunity of turning a penny. Our machinery will be shipped on December 15, and if no bad weather intervenes we should be in the field by March 1 or April 1, at which time our contract with the Webb Company begins. "Our equipment will consist of three 500---horsepower generators, 3000-horsepower step-up and step-down transformers and about 120 miles of copper wire. We shall have two substations, one at Browns Valley and the other at Marysville. The designation of our enterprise will be the Yuba Power Company. We have made the Marysville Gas and Electric Company a liberal offer for its plant, and should it accept we will succeed to its interests."

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## San Francisco Call, 22 March 1898

### POWER FOR MARYSVILLE.

Electric Current Transmitted From a Point in the Sierra Nevada. MARYSVLLE, March 22— W. Frank Pierce, president of the Blue Lakes Water Company, at 5:30 this afternoon, touched the button connecting Marysville with the power plant of the Yuba Power Company, which produces its current twenty-three miles distant in the Sierra Nevada The town is Jubilant over the advent of the company, which reduces illuminating rates 50 per cent and affords cheap power for manufacturing.

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## San Francisco Call, 24 March 1898

### POWER FROM THE SIERRA

Marysville Lighted by Her New Electric System. Wheels of Industry Turned by a Force Exerted Miles Away. Browns Valley Mines to Be Supplied With a Current From the Same Source.

MARYSVILLE, March 23.— On Monday evening at the office of the Yuba Power Company in this city, there was a large gathering of citizens, the occasion being the introduction into Marysville of the company's electric light from its plant in the hills above Browns Valley. There was a magnificent display, the object being to illustrate to prospective customers the effect of the different methods of assembling incandescent lights in order to obtain the best possible effect. All present were impressed with the splendid quality of light, its brilliancy and steadiness. Twenty-three miles of a delightful drive, thirteen miles of which is through the low foothills of the Sierras above Browns Valley, brings one to the power-house of the Yuba Power Company, situated at the head of what is known as Capitan ravine, down which for 850 feet is laid the heavy steel pipe which leads the waters of the Browns Valley irrigation canal to the Pelton wheels at the power-house. These wheels are buckled to and run the large electric generators, three in number, of 600-horsepower capacity each. The machines supply the current for the lights in Marysville and the power for the mines at Browns Valley. The amount of water available at the point of divergence is 2800 inches; the fall from the ditch to the Pelton wheels is equivalent to a vertical fall of 293 feet, and the power there capable of production is 1876-horsepower. Recent inventions in the matter of electrical transmission of power will render it possible to transfer this immense load from the point of its production to the place of application with but the trifling loss of 8 per cent on the maximum capacity of the plant. All of the work in connection with this plant has been of the most substantial character. The water-wheels are supported on solid concrete bases and the wire and poleline are of the best obtainable materials. The entire length of the pole line through the hills is cleared off for fifty feet on each side of the wires, thus reducing to a maximum the danger of interference to the line from windblown trees or forest fires.

Convenient to the power house is the residence of the electricians and employees in charge of the plant. The structure which will house these gentlemen is a comfortable one of two stories.

The company is figuring on extending its current to Wheatland, Smartsville, Woodland, Lincoln and other surrounding towns.

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## **San Francisco Call, 13 June 1898**

### **THE YUBA-MARYSVILLE TRANSMISSION.**

THE current number of the Journal of Electricity gives the place of honor in its pages to an elaborate description, richly illustrated, of the electric power transmission system recently established by the Yuba Power Company at Marysville. The article is a noteworthy one and presents in a striking way one of the most important of the accomplishments of Californian enterprise. It is noted that just 125 days elapsed from the date when the power company began work on the system until it was placed in operation. The work achieved during that comparatively short time included the entire rebuilding of thirty odd miles of water system, the location of the power-house, the erection of the pole line with two sub-stations, the city distribution of over 5000 lights and the installation of all the hydraulic and electrical equipments of the plant. With this record the company holds the well merited distinction of having made the quickest installation of that magnitude ever accomplished. The plant, moreover, is as notable for its excellence as for the speed with which it was built. Rapidly as the work was performed, thoroughness and quality were never subordinated for the sake of gaining | time. The system stands, therefore, as one of the best illustrations in the world of what American science and engineering skill can do in the way of providing for the transmission of electrical energy.

The example set in this case will of course be followed elsewhere. The topography of California is well adapted for such enterprises, and the date can hardly be far distant when nearly every city of note in the State will have power furnished it on lines similar to that which is now proving such a benefit to Marysville.

## **San Francisco Call, 29 September 1898**

### **BREAK IN THE YUBA POWER COMPANY DITCH**

Marysville in Total Darkness at Night Because of the Disaster. MARYSVILLE, Sept. 29.— The ditch that provides the motor power for the Yuba Power Company's electric plant broke to-day, and in consequence Marysville is in total darkness to-night, the city's lighting contract being with this company. It is feared that there will be numerous recurrences of these conditions during the approaching winter, as the ditch crosses a mountainous region where landslides are frequent in rough weather.

## **San Francisco Call, 12 May 1899**

### SHALL NOT COLLECT IRRIGATION TAXES

Two Decrees Made by Judge Davis in the Browns Valley District Case.

MARYSVILLE, May 11. - Irrigation bonds have received another setback, this time at the hands of the Superior Court of Yuba County, the case at bar being the, South Feather Water and Union Mining Company et al. vs. the directors of the Browns Valley Irrigation District. The status of the Browns Valley Irrigation District was passed upon here some time ago by Judge Gray of Oroville who was sitting for Judge Davis of Yuba County in the latter's absence, in the findings it was shown the district had not been organized according to law, none of the principal details being in legal form. As that decision virtually settled the future of the district as far as the bonds were concerned, it only required additional decrees restraining the officers of the district from levying or collecting taxes to pay any part of the principal or the interest of the \$140,000 of district bonds issued. Two decrees made by Judge Davis yesterday complete this part, as one enjoins the officers of the district from selling property or otherwise enforcing the collection of taxes which have been levied in the past; and the other enjoins them from levying or collecting taxes for the payment of principal or interest of the bonds in the future. This all follows as a natural result of the first decision, when the district was declared not to exist legally. It is said on the best information to be obtained that this ends bond litigation in this particular case. The district organization has not been destroyed in fact, as that point has not been reached by decree. The officers remain and may proceed in such manner as is deemed best for the owners of the land, so that no taxes are levied or collected to pay bonds or interest on bonds. Now that the important point is settled the land owners in the district will welcome all new comers who naturally will seek this land when they know that the title and the future are no longer in doubt.

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## **San Francisco Call, 15 June 1899**

To Discuss Irrigation.

MARYSVILLE, June 14.— One week from to-day a public meeting will be held in Browns Valley to consider matters in connection with the irrigation district. Water arriving in the ditch must be cared for and distributed. To do this money must be raised, either by taxation or by the sale of the water. Recent court decisions have left the organization under a cloud. The policy advocated by the National Irrigation Congress of Federal storage reservoirs and leasing public grazing lands to settlers on adjacent lands will be discussed. The meeting will be addressed by George H. Maxwell, chairman of the executive committee of the National Irrigation Association. Every one interested in the prosperity of those engaged in the stock raising industry is urged to attend.

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## **San Francisco Call, 15 October 1899**

### BONDHOLDER SUES

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Seeks to Recover From Browns Valley Irrigation District. MARYSVILLE, Oct. 14.— A Deputy United States Marshal served papers at Browns Valley in this county to-day on Byron Burris, president of the Browns Valley Irrigation District, in a suit brought in the United States Circuit Court by George Parker, a citizen of Great Britain, who seeks to recover delinquent interest amounting to \$6447 on bonds of the district held by him. The Browns Valley Irrigation District embraces 45,000 acres of land lying twelve miles to the northeast of Marysville.

There has been much litigation in the State courts over this district and its bonds and Judge Gray. Sitting in the Superior Court of Yuba County some, few months since, declared the bonds issued by the district to be invalid. There is \$140,000 of the bonds outstanding and but little has been paid on them in the shape of interest since their issuance. This is the first action against this district which has been brought in any court by the bondholders. The works of the Browns Valley district stand completed and are in successful operation.

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## **San Francisco Call, 17 October 1899**

### Suit on Irrigation bonds.

George Parker brought suit in the United States Circuit Court yesterday against the Browns Valley Irrigation District to recover \$6447 on irrigation bonds and coupons issued March 7, 1887. He also asked for the interest on the same. Browns Valley is in Yuba County and Mr. Parker is a British subject.

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## **San Francisco Call, 27 February 1900**

Light Companies Consolidate.

Special Dispatch to The Call. MARYSVILLE, Feb. . 28.— Marysville's two lighting systems 'were consolidated under- new management to-day. The Marysville Gas and Electric Company, which for many years was. controlled by the late E. E. Knight, is to remain intact and has absorbed all local opposition. The company by its new board of directors has contracted with the Yuba Electric Power Company, to furnish electric current for the consolidated system of lighting, the latter concern to devote itself to power alone hereafter. The new board of directors Is comprised of John Martin, president; Henry Malloch, secretary; E. J. de Sabla, vice president; F. H, Pierson, A. C. Bingham and W. H. Parks.

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## **San Francisco Call, 3 June 1900**

ELECTRIC POWER COMPANIES MAKE A COMBINATION

Plants in Nevada and Yuba Counties Join Hands to Reach the Bay.

Corporation Formed in This City With Capital of Five Million Dollars to Perfect the Consolidation.

Eugene J. de Sabla Jr.. G. A. Grow. R. M. Hotaling. John Martin. William M. Pierson, Oscar Sutro and A. W. Llnforth have Incorporated the Bay Counties Power Company, with a capital stock amounting to \$3,000,000 for the purpose of purchasing and combining the Nevada County and the Yuba County Electric Power companies and supplying Benicia, Vallejo, Woodland. Napa and probably other places with light and power. The general facts were supplied last night by Mr. de Sabla, who said: "The Nevada County and the Yuba County Electric Power companies have been furnishing power and electric light to cities and towns and have also supplied power for mining purposes. Among the uses this electricity has been put to have been that of running the dredgers that are mining for gold on the Feather River at Oroville. Butte County; supplying light and power for the Browns Valley mines in Yuba County: lighting the city of Marysville and furnishing power there for the operation of the ice plant and. the Sperry Flour Company; lighting the town of Lincoln in Placer County; furnishing power to the Sacramento Gas and Electric Power Company and supplying power to the electric plant at Folsom. The current runs over a line seventy miles long from the power house to Folsom. "We have also supplied light and power for Nevada City and Grass Valley, in Nevada County, and furnished power for hoisting and pumping for the Nevada County mines. From this it appears that the two companies have a large amount of present business and extensive plants. Mr. de Sabla estimated that they jointly have at least 20,000 horse-power. While he had not the exact figures at hand he knew that the capitalization of the new company, which will absorb the two older ones. Is much larger than their combined capitalization. The reason of this was that large extensions were to be made that would cost a great deal of money. The name of the

new company correctly sets forth the purpose to extend to the bay counties, but the program of extension has not been decided upon. The stockholders in the old companies and the new one are practically the same so that there can be no hitch in the project.

## **San Francisco Call, 11 July 1900**

Will Settle Bond Question.

MARYSVILLE. July 10.— Members of the Browns Valley Land Owners' Protective Association, embracing realty owners of the Browns Valley irrigation district, have employed attorneys to defend the action brought by George Parker, a citizen of England, in the United States Circuit Court, seeking to establish the validity of bonds issued in the district amounting to \$145,000, which have already been declared void in the Superior Court of this county. The result of this suit will settle definitely the status of the bonded indebtedness of the Browns Valley irrigation district.

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## **San Francisco Call, 12 July 1900**

CITY OFFERED TWO MORE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS

Marysville Company "Will Sell One for a Million—Another Scheme to Light the City. The Marysville and Nevada Power and Water Company yesterday submitted two propositions to Chairman Reed of the Supervisors' Committee on Public Utilities. In the first the company agrees to sell and guarantee 10,000 inches of water to be diverted at Alabama Bar on the North Yuba River; also the right of way for canals, tunnels, etc., and 2000 acres storage reservoir at the Oregon House Valley and the headquarters of the North Yuba,

The company will expend \$50,000 on the construction of the system, which it will sell for \$500,000. In the second offer the company proposes to deed the property free from all encumbrances for \$1,000,000. to include the construction of canals, dams. Tunnels and masonry aqueducts, the water to be delivered into the Oregon House reservoir. An opinion by Attorney George L. Hughes accompanies the offer, in which he holds that he agrees with Judge Searls and M. Carlin of Marysville that the company has a prior right to 10,000 inches of water, which is paramount to and excludes any claims made by the Browns Valley Irrigation District or the Yuba Electric Power Company. M. C. Taylor repeats an offer of a water system owned by him. He advises the issuance of bonds to the amount of \$2,500,000 which will purchase the system and complete an electric plant and bring to the city 5000 horsepower, with the necessary distributing wires, poles and conduits for lighting the city.

## **San Francisco Call, 18 April 1905**

### JUDGMENT FOR PARKERS

— United States Circuit Judge Morrow yesterday ordered Judgment for \$9447 and costs in favor of the defendants in the suit of George Parkers vs. The Browns Valley Irrigation District.

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## **San Francisco Call, 25 January 1906**

### May Compromise With Bondholders.

MARYSVILLE Jan. 24, ----After ten years of litigation the land owners in Browns Valley Irrigation . District have appointed Byron Burris, William Slingsby and W. G. Halstead to arrange for a compromise with the bondholders for a sum not to exceed \$50,000 cash. The indebtedness of the district. including un paid Interest on the bonds, is about \$225,000. The bondholders are understood to be favorably Inclined. The entire Browns Valley section has been retarded for years by this litigation, and the land owners have lost heavily. They have now decided to take the matter in their own hands and discard attorneys.

## **Los Angeles Herald, 3 October 1906**

### Settle Irrigation Troubles

MARYSVILLE, Cal., Oct. 2.— The muddled affairs of the Browns Valley Irrigation district are in a fair way to be settled. The holders of \$110,000 worth of bonds of the district have signified a willingness to settle on a basis of 30 per cent, and the land owners have decided to accept and have requested County Assessor Beven to make an assessment of the district to raise the amount. The settlement on the basis will call for a tax levy of \$67,000.

## **San Francisco Call, 1 January 1907**

### **BROWNS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICTS PAYS OFF BONDS**

Fifty-Two Thousand Dollars In Raised by Assessment on Assessed Valuation of v the: Lands;

MARYSVILLE. . Dec.- - 31. — Attorney Fallace Dinsmore and W. G. Halstead. representing the Browns Valley Irrigation District went, to San Francisco today to pay the bondholders of the district \$52,000 and have all bonds held by foreign persons canceled. This means that nearly the entire debt will be paid. Property owners in the district raised \$60,000 by assessment last week for this purpose, the tax amounting to \$21. 00 on each \$100 assessed valuation. Ten thousand dollars more would clear the district of 'debt. .A great celebration is planned when the last bond will have been canceled.

## **San Francisco Call, 20 October 1909**

### **IRRIGATION DITCH WILL RECLAIM BIG SECTION**

OROVILLE, Oct. 19. — Fred M. Turner of Bangor and Fred Hecker of this city have just completed a concrete dam across Dry creek near Oregon house in Yuba county which will furnish water for an Irrigation ditch nine miles long covering, with laterals, almost a thousand acres of land in the vicinity of Bangor.

## **Pacific Rural Press, 3 February 1912**

### **Big Ranch Being Colonized.**

The old Daggett ranch, in the northeastern part of Yuba county, comprising 2,266 acres, is being cut up into small holdings and sold to settlers. The land Id being subdivided into 20-acre tracts and will be irrigated by pumping, using electricity as power. Also, water can be had from the Browns Valley irrigation ditch if desired.

# Pacific Rural Press, 20 June 1914

Wright Irrigation Act Applied.

To the Editor: Please tell us how many districts in California are working under the Wright-Bridgefurd Act, and in how many cases the Act is considered a success? How many acres are embodied in each district? —H. H. C, Alpaugh.

[ANSWERED BY A. L. COWELL]

Of the irrigation districts organized under the Wright Act of 1887, the following named, with the approximate acreage of each, are now active:

Modesto, Stanislaus county, 82,000 acres; Turlock, Stanislaus and Merced counties, 170,000 acres; Alta, Fresno, Tulare, and Kings counties, 136,000 acres; Tulare, Tulare county, 37,000 acres; Little Rock Creek, Los Angeles county, 2700 acres; Walnut, Los Angeles county, 600 acres. The Browns Valley district, east of Marysville, also maintains its organization but its irrigation system is under control of a private corporation, which supplies water to a portion of the district under contract.

In 1897, the Wright law was superseded by what is commonly known as the Wright-Bridgefurd Act, which has since been materially amended, Under it the following districts have been organized:

South San Joaquin in San Joaquin county, 72,000 acres; Oakdale in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties 72,000 acres; Waterford, Stanislaus county, 20,000 acres; Imperial, Imperial county, 523,000 acres; San Ysidro, San Diego county, 500 acres; La Mesa, San Diego county, 14,000 acres. The acreage given above is not, in all cases, from official records, but is approximately correct.

In all of these districts, so far as we are advised, the law is considered a success. In the Modesto, Turlock, Alta, and Walnut districts, irrigation has been carried on with highly beneficial results for a great many years. In the Tulare district, the water supply is not sufficient for all the land in the district and private pumping plants are numerous, but the expenses of the district are met by charging tolls for water used and not by general assessments on all the land in the district, as is customary in other districts. The Little Rock Creek district was not active for many years but has recently been reorganized.

Of the newly organized districts, water is being delivered in the South San Joaquin, Oakdale, and San Ysidro districts. The Imperial district was organized to take over the private system which now supplies the Imperial valley, but negotiations have not yet been completed. The Waterford and La Masa districts have been organized recently.

There is a State association of irrigation districts to which most of the districts named belong. Its secretary is E. N. Pierce of Manteca, California.

## **San Francisco Call, 19 July 1891**

Timber Fires Burning

Marysville, July 18 — The greatest fire ever known in the foothills in Yuba County has been raging since last Thursday and at last accounts this afternoon was not under control, it started near a miner's camp on Yuba River near the Oregon House, eighteen miles from here, up to the present time has burned over 4000 acres of land, all timber and good pasture. There is but one cabin reported burned and that was uninhabited.

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## **San Francisco Call, 16 March 1898**

RAILWAY THROUGH BROWNS VALLEY

Project Fostered by the Marysville Improvement Association.

Proposes to Stretch Bands of Steel Prom the Town to the Oregon House.

MARYSVILLE, March 15.— Some ten years ago the citizens of this district subscribed to a survey of a railroad from this city to the Oregon House, via Browns Valley. The survey and report were made by T. W. Recce and are now In the hands of the Marysville Improvement Association.

At a recent meeting of the association the project of encouraging capital to interest itself in this road was the sole topic of discussion. The proposed route for the railroad, which may be operated by electricity, is shown by Surveyor Recce's map to be as follows: To follow the line of the Browns Valley grade and levee out of Marysville to the high land on the Ayer place, near Smartsville, thence skirting the foothills to run one mile west of Browns Valley and follow the west side of Dry Creek nine miles, where a crossing is made, thence along the east aide of Dry Creek to the terminus at the junction of the Bangor, La Porte and Downieville roads, a distance of twenty-six and one-half miles from Marysville. The maximum grade is at the seventeenth mile, where it is 100 feet per mile, which grade is carried for four miles. This, the surveyor suggests, may be decreased by a slight increase in the length. The estimate of the cost at construction and equipment is \$247,420. The item of excavation is \$24,150, based at a cost

of 35 cents per cubic yard, and embankment \$22,600, at a cost of 22 cents per cubic yard. The cost of equipment is \$200,000. The estimated annual income, based on the hauling of 4408 tons of freight, is \$40,149, and the profits \$20,075. With the lumber mills in operation a box and door factory would find a good field 'in Marysville and much trade that goes in other directions would be diverted this way. The quartz mills that are in operation all through Yuba County's mountainous district would add to the road's income. At the next meeting of the Marysville Improvement Association a proposition will be submitted to raise a subsidy toward inviting capital to take up this project.

## **San Francisco Call, 7 April 1900**

### **WANTS TO SELL WATER FROM THE YUBA RIVER**

M. C. Taylor Makes an Offer to the City of 60,000,000 Gallons Daily for \$12,000,000.

A communication was filed yesterday with the Board of Supervisors by M. C. Taylor of " Guerrero street, in which he offers to sell to the city a water supply at the junction of the North and Middle Yuba rivers, of which he claims to be the owner. The lowest flow measured at this point for the past fourteen years was 200,000,000 gallons daily, the supply being fed by a watershed of 700 square miles in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and being at an elevation of 700 feet. Twelve million dollars will cover all the expense of construction with a capacity of 60,000,000 gallons daily. Regarding the supply obtainable from Lake Tahoe, Taylor informs the board that as the natural overflow of the lake flows into Nevada, the city would be involved in interminable litigation over the right to divert the waters. Taylor further says that as the Spring Valley Company is dependent on storage and costs annually \$500,000 that system would be costly as a gift.

## **San Francisco Call, 12 July 1900**

### **CITY OFFERED TWO MORE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS**

Marysville Company "Will Sell One for a Million—Another Scheme to Light the City. The Marysville and Nevada Power and Water Company yesterday submitted two propositions to Chairman Reed of the Supervisors' Committee on Public Utilities. In the first the company agrees to sell and guarantee 10,000 inches of water to be diverted at Alabama Bar on the North Yuba River; also the right of way for canals,

tunnels, etc., and 2000 acres storage reservoir at the Oregon House Valley and the headquarters of the North Yuba,

The company will expend \$50,000 on the construction of the system, which it will sell for \$0(X),0(«. In the second offer the company proposes to deed the property free from all encumbrances for \$1,000,000. to include the construction of canals, dams. Tunnels and masonry aqueducts, the water to be delivered into the Oregon House reservoir. An opinion by Attorney George L. Hughes accompanies the offer, in which he holds that he agrees with Judge Senrls and M. Carlin of Marysville that the company has a prior right to 10.00\*) inches of water, which is paramount to and excludes any claims made by the Browns Valley Irrigation District or the Yuba Electric Power Company. M. C. Taylor repeats an offer of a water system owned by him. He advises the Issuanc? of bonds to the amount of 2,500,-000. which will purchase the system and complete an electric plant and bring to the city 5000 horsepower, with the necessary distributing wires, poles and conduits for lighting the city.

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## **San Francisco Call, 26 July 1900**

### INSPECT THE YUBA AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

San Francisco Supervisors' Water Committee Finishes Its Tour and Will Return To-Day. MARYSVILLE, July 25.— The water investigation committee of the Supervisors of San Francisco arrived here last night, after a three-days' trip across the main ridge of the Sierras, a distance of 100 miles. Stops were made at Sierra City, Downieville, Camptonville and other points, and the character and flow of the Yuba River and its tributaries were noted. The reservoir at Alabama Bar and the one proposed to be built in Oregon House Valley were carefully inspected. At the latter point the Marysville and Nevada Power Company has offered to convey 10,000 miners' inches of water into the immense reservoir, from which it can be delivered to San Francisco at a fall of 700 feet. Yuba River, however, does not impress the party as favorably as Lake Tahoe. Above Downieville the waters of the former Stream became muddy and did not clear for miles. The members of the commission believe there will be even more litigation over the Yuba River diversion than that of Lake Tahoe. To-night the party is being entertained by the city officials of Marysville and a general good time is being enjoyed. At 2 o'clock to-morrow morning the party will start for San Francisco, arriving at 8.

## **San Francisco Call, 7 July 1901**

Tuolumne and Yuba Rivers.

City Engineer Grunsky - yesterday submitted to the Board of Public "Works a revised report" on the estimated cost of bringing water from the Yuba, Stanislaus and Tuolumne rivers. The report was immediately transmitted to the Mayor, who will forward it to the Board of Supervisors to-morrow. The report shows that the cost of bringing water from the Sierra Nevada sources for a delivery of 30,000,000 gallons per day in a single pipe line falls as low as 8.53 cents per 1000 gallons, and that if a double line of pipe be used the cost will be 9.63 cents per 1000 gallons. When the works are planned with an expansion to 100,000,000 gallons a day as ultimate capacity, the cost of the water delivered by a single pipe line would be 8.49 cents per 1000 gallons, and 10.39 cents per 1000 gallons if delivered in two pipes., each having a capacity of 15,000,000 gallons. . . City Engineer Grunsky states that the following figures are subject to revision and may be used as a basis of what the cost of bringing water from the three sources named may be in the future:.

### **YUBA RIVER PROJECT.**

Canal capacity from North Yuba River, at Alabama Bar, to Oregon House Reservoir, 30,000,000 gallons per day. Oregon House Reservoir storage capacity, 30,000,000,000 gallons. Single pipe, 56 11-100 inch diameter; capacity 30,000,000 gallons per day; via Carquinez Straits and under San Francisco Bay, cost \$21,605,000.00 Investment per million gallons of daily capacity .

## **San Francisco Call, 8 September 1902**

Flames in the neighborhood of Willow Glen Threaten Valuable Residences.

MARYSHILLE, Sept. 7.— A forest fire is raging in the neighborhood of Willow Glen. In this county, and residents in that section, aided by farmers from the Brownsville and Oregon House districts, are strenuously fighting it. It is impossible now to estimate the acreage burned over or the probable loss. Several fine farm residences and barns stored with grain are in the track of the flames, but it is hoped they will escape destruction.

